THE
LIFE
OF
King *EDWARD* III.
OF
ENGLAND,
WITH
Reflections on his Political and Military Conduct,
CONTAINING

An Account of the moſt memorable Tranſactions, and Revolutions, in *Great Britain*, *France*, and other Countries, during upwards of fifty Years.

Cum plerique arbitrentur Res bellicas majores eſſe quam urbanas, minuenda eſt hæc Opinio: multi enim Bella ſæpe quæſieverunt propter Gloriæ Cupiditatem.

Cic. Off. Lib. I.

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The Grenville Library

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

Lieutenant General WADE.

SIR,

PERMIT me to dedicate to your great Worth the Life of a royal Hero whoſe Actions have made him more renowned as a Soldier than a Prince: in which, as I have been juſt to his Valour and his Policy, I have not endeavoured to draw a Veil over his Defects. What your Country owes to your Proweſs and unſullyed Honour needs not at this Time to be related. Your paſſed Conduct has engaged our warmeſt Wiſhes for your Health and Safety;

and while we fix our Eyes upon you, without any Derogation from other worthy Leaders, *Great Britain* deſpairs not of freſh Triumphs, if you ſhould be called upon to lead her Armies forth. Nothing but a juſt Senſe of your exalted Merit induced me to pay this Tribute of Reſpect to your Character, for which no one conceives a higher Value than,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient,

and moſt humble, Servant,

December 1733.

&c.

THE

LIFE

OF

King *Edward* III.

THE Prince, whoſe Hiſtory I am now writing, has been repreſented by his Biographers as the moſt ſhining Character of all who have filled the Throne of *England* from the earlieſt to the preſent Times; and indeed, if we look on him as a Soldier and a Politician only, we can not find his Superior in any Age or Country: *Barnes*, and ſome other Hiſtorians, have carryed their Admiration of him almoſt to Idolatry; and the firſt often loſes himſelf as an Hiſtorian by giving his Work too much the Air of Romance.

My

My Deſign is to ſhew the true Motives of King *Edward*'s Valour, and the Effects of it to his Country, by a faithful Relation of his Actions, without derogating from his Character as a Warrior, and without raiſing the gallant and illuſtrious Murderer to a God, for his Deſtruction of Men.

I have here endeavoured to reduce the Life of this mighty Monarch, which has been the Subject of a large Volume in Folio, to ſo narrow a Compaſs that it may be read in leſs than two Hours. The Facts which I relate are atteſted by the moſt authentic Authors; and the Remarks which I make on the Springs of Action, and the Conduct of Perſons, and the Conſequences thereof, are ſuch as will bear the ſevereſt Examination of Reaſon. This Reign being fruitful of ſurpriſing Circumſtances, and of different Kinds, can not fail giving Pleaſure to the Reader.

Edward the third was born in the Year 1313; he was the Son of *Edward* the ſecond by *Iſabel* the Daughter of *Philip le Bell* King of *France*: he came to the Throne, after the Depoſition of his Father, in the Year 1327; and in the Year 1328 he was marryed to *Phillippa* of *Haynault*; and he ſoon after made a diſhonourable Peace with *David Bruce* King of *Scotland* to whom he gave his

his Siſter in Marriage. The Terms of the Peace were theſe: The King of *England* ſurrendered *by his Charter his Title of Sovereignty to the Kingdom of* Scotland, *reſtored divers Deeds, and Inſtruments, of their former Homages and Fealties, and many antient Jewels and Monuments, and prohibited any* Engliſhman *to hold Lands in* Scotland, *unleſs he dwelt there.* In Conſideration of which, *Bruce* was to pay thirty thouſand Marks. Soon after this a Parliament was held at *Wincheſter*, before which *Edmond* Earl of *Kent*, Brother to the depoſed King, was condemned without any Fact being proved againſt him. The People judged him ſo innocent that he ſtood on the Scaffold from one o' Clock till five before a Perſon could be procured to execute him; and at laſt none but a Wretch taken from the *Marſhalſea* would cut off his Head.

Theſe Tranſactions ly not ſo heavy againſt the Memory of King *Edward* the third as they would if his Mother and *Mortimer* had been dead, who were indefatigable in executing their wicked Deſigns.

In the Year 1331 King *Edward* performed Homage to *Philip de Valois* King of *France*, as Duke of *Guyene* and Peer of *France*; which Subjection he was unwilling to pay, ſuppoſing himſelf the rightful Heir to the Crown of

of *France*. The Pretenſions of the two Princes were theſe. King *Edward* was Grandſon to *Philip le Bell* by *Iſabel* his Daughter; which Relation, he thought, gave him a fairer Title to the Kingdom of *France* than *Philip de Valois* could ſhew, who was Nephew to *Philip le Bell* by his Brother *Charles de Valois*. In this Contention King *Edward* betrayed either his Ignorance of the ſalic Law of *France*, or his Intention to make this an Excuſe for a future Quarrel; but we muſt believe him not ſo ignorant as ambitious; becauſe the three Sons of *Philip le Bell*, *Louis*, *Philip*, and *Charles*, were ſucceſſively Kings of *France*, and they had all Daughters, who were ſet aſide by the ſalic Law; *Philip de Valois* therefore poſſeſſed the Throne by the Laws of the Country of which he was King. *Robert de Artois*, a Peer of great Power, was one who oppoſed King *Edward* to the utmoſt of his Capacity; whom I mention in this Place, that the Reader may remember this Circumſtance, betwixt King *Edward* and him, in the Sequel of this Hiſtory.

The Magnificence in which King *Edward* appeared in *France*, when he payed his Vow of Homage, was exceeding great, and becoming the Majeſty of *England*. The Ceremony of paying the Homage was this. The Chamberlain of *France* joined the Hands of

of the two Kings, the King of *England* kneeling with his Crown off, and the King of *France* ſeated in a Chair of State with his Crown on and his Nobles about him; and the Chamberlain pronounced theſe Words, *You become Liegeman to the King my Maſter here preſent, as Duke of* Guyene, *and Peer of* France; *and you promiſe to bear Faith and Loyalty unto him. Say yea; and King* Edward *ſayed yea, and kiſſed the King of* France *in the Mouth.* He payed the like Homage alſo for the Earldom of *Ponthieu.* Our own Hiſtorians, and even thoſe of *France*, cenſure the Pride of *Philip* for exacting this Submiſſion from a young, active, haughty, and potent Prince; and indeed the Conſequences proved fatal to *England*, *France*, and other Countries; for this was the living Coal that burned in his Breaſt, and fired him on to ſuch Exploits as made his Name terrible throughout Chriſtendom. Revenge and Ambition were the Springs of moſt of his publick Actions as a Warrior, and a wrong Judgement the Cauſe of his Reſentments. If King *Philip* was imprudent in punctually inſiſting on the Performance of his Homage, King *Edward* was unjuſt in making that his Motive for embroiling Kingdoms in a dreadful War. *Philip* required no more than the known Laws of his Country could defend; and the Meanneſs of *Edward* had not been ſo great, if he had entirely refuſed any Sub-

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miſſion, as it was in taking a moſt ſolemn Oath of Fealty, and in breaking it afterwards, and in being thereby the Deſtruction of many thouſands.

Soon after the Performance of his Homage King *Edward* returned to *England*; where an Accident happened favourable to the Indulgence of his Pride and Revenge. *Edward Baliol*, the Son of *John Baliol*, thirty-two Years after the Time of his Father being dethroned who was King of *Scotland*, attempted to regain his Crown. He came from *France*, where he had remained; and he was permitted, underhand, to procure Aid in *England*; with which he attacked thoſe who had the Government of *Scotland* in the Minority of King *David*, who was then with the King of *France*. He overcame them, and was crowned King of *Scotland* at *Scone*; but his Party not being ſufficient, notwithſtanding this Victory, to purſue his Conqueſts, he retired to *England*; where King *Edward* was eaſily prevailed on to join him againſt King *David*, notwithſtanding his Alliance to him by Marriage; and he went, in Perſon, with a ſtrong Army, to recover *Berwick*, which was bravely defended by Lord *Seton*, who was placed there by King *David*. After a Siege of two Months, he was reduced too low to hold out, for above forty thouſand *Scots* were ſlain at the Siege; and above one

one thouſand of them were Earls, Barons, and other Perſons of Diſtinction. King *Edward* was pleaſed with this Opportunity of revoking the Terms of the Peace which he had concluded with King *David*; but I think the more princely Way of proceeding would have been to have made new Propoſals to King *David*, or to thoſe who preſided in his Nonage, and, if they had been rejected, he might then have righted himſelf by Force of Arms; but he ſeems to me not to have conſulted Juſtice, in this Caſe, but how to haſten and facilitate what he undertook in order to accompliſh his Views of Ambition and Revenge; and here the following melancholly Story of Lord *Seton* will countenance this Remark of his indiſcriminate Regard to Juſtice and Injuſtice.

Lord *Seton*, notwithſtanding the Defeat of the *Scottiſh* Army, was unwilling to render up the Town; yet, almoſt deſpairing of Relief, and ſeeing the Aſſaults againſt him violent, he propoſed to King *Edward*, if no Reſcue ſhould come before a certain fixed Day, to ſurrender; and, as a Pledge of Faith, he delivered two of his Sons into the Hands of the King; who, ſoon after, having Intelligence of the Approach of the *Scotch* Army, and fearing that they would come before the Day ſtipulated, gave a Summons to Lord *Seton* to give up the Town immedi-

ately, threatening to execute his Sons before his Face if he did not comply; and, according to his Menaces, he cauſed a Gibbet to be raiſed before the Town; and the Sons were brought out under the Hand of the Executioner. Lord *Seton*, divided betwixt the Paſſions of filial Love, and Honour to his Prince, was determined by the Exhortation of his Wife, the Mother of the two Children: I ſhall ſet forth her Speech, as recorded by Hiſtorians; which, for the manly Spirit of Wiſdom and true Courage contained therein, will make the Name of Lady *Seton* renowned above Women. *Remember*, ſhe cryed, *your Fealty ſworn to the King, your Charity to your Country, and the Dignity of your noble Family. We have other Children left, if theſe are deſtroyed; and we ourſelves are not ſo old but we may yet have more; and theſe, if they ſhould now be preſerved from Death, may ſhortly periſh by ſome worſe Occaſion; and what a Stain will you lay on the Name of* Seton, *and our Poſterity, by a baſe Act of yielding and betraying the Place committed unto you; whereby you are not certain whether you ſhall preſerve your Children or not; for how can you hope that this King, who has violated his firſt Promiſe to you, ſhould perform the laſt?* This Speech had the deſired Effect on her Husband, who withdrew himſelf from the Walls, that he might not be a Spectator of ſo mournful a Sight as

the

the Execution of his innocent Children. I am ſure the Task is needleſs to make any Remark on this Part of the Behaviour of King *Edward*; for the mere Relation of the Fact will raiſe involuntarily in every Breaſt the Paſſions of Pity and Admiration on one Side, and of Horror and Deteſtation on the other.

The Year after this Defeat, *Edward Baliol*, King of *Scotland*, performed Homage to *Edward* King of *England*, as his ſuperior Lord, *binding himſelf and his Heirs to hold that Kingdom of him and his Succeſſors for ever, with the Inheritance of five Countries next adjoining to the Borders.* The Policy of the King of *Scotland* was this. He believed, by this Subjection, he might depend on the Aſſiſtance of King *Edward* of *England* if he required it, and thereby ſecure his Kingdom to himſelf. The Terms of this Alliance were widely different, in their Advantage to the King of *England*, from thoſe formerly made with King *David:* but what were the Effects of this Alliance? The Nobles of *Scotland* were diſcontented at this Alienation and Subjection of their Country, and were the Occaſion of continual Trouble to both Kings thro' many Years after; and vaſt was the Expence which this Affair brought on *England*; for the King went in Perſon, with his Armies, into thoſe Parts, three Years together, and never returned without great Deſtruction,

Deſtruction, and much Bloodſhed, of that afflicted People. Here the Reflection which *Danyel* makes on the Bravery of the *Scotch* ought not to be forgot: *We are moved*, ſays he, *to admire how it could be poſſible that little Corner of this Iſle being no more fertile, and withal ſo often waſted, could breed ſo many Men as had been ſlain in Battel within theſe fifty Years paſſed, and yet ſtill to be able to ſupply their Fields with ſuch Numbers as they did, both to maintain their own Quarrels, and defend their own Liberties.* Danyel tells us what moved King *Edward* of *England* to proſecute the Buſineſs of *Scotland* with ſuch Violence was the Deſign which he had on *France*, which was the chief Intent of his Heart; and at this Time *Robert de Artois* was drove from *France* by his Brother in Law King *Philip*, and came over to *England*, where he was entertained with great Reſpect. This was the Perſon who ſtrenuouſly oppoſed the Pretenſions of King *Edward* to the Crown of *France*: he was doubtleſs a Man of Subtilty and Addreſs, that, after his Oppoſition to King *Edward*, could raiſe himſelf to ſome of the firſt Honours in *England*, and make even the King the Tool of his Revenge, as I ſhall ſhew he did, tho at the ſame Time the old Reſentment which King *Edward* cheriſhed co-operated with the Endeavours of this exiled Prince.

This

This *Robert de Artois*, of the royal Blood of *France*, had a Contention with *Maud* his Aunt about the Earldom of *Artois*; in which he uſed many Frauds, but in vain; for the King was moved, by Juſtice, to give it to *Maud*; which provoked *Robert de Artois*, whoſe Siſter was the Wife of King *Philip*, to ſay he would unmake the King by the ſame Power by which he made him: after which Saying he was proclaimed a Traytor; and he fled to *England* about the Year 1336, in the tenth Year of the Reign of King *Edward*, into whoſe Council he was admitted and he was created Earl of *Richmond*. The Methods which he took to obtain the Favour of the King were theſe. He firſt diſcovered to him the Councils of *France*, and, like a skilful Gameſter, turned the Tables upon him, by undertaking to diſprove the Title of *Philip* to the Crown of *France*, which he had lately moſt warmly defended, and to prefer the Claim of King *Edward*. Thus did the *Frenchman* work on the Paſſions of our King, and gained his Point; for he kindled, or rather inflamed, a War betwixt the two Nations which an hundred Years ſcarcely extinguiſhed.

King *Edward*, ſince his Return from *France*, had been ſtrengthening his Intereſt in Order to carry on a War with the *French* King;

King ; which *Robert de Artois* made the Buſineſs of his Days to forward. King *Edward* engaged, in his Cauſe, his Father-in-Law *William* Earl of *Haynault*, the Emperor of *Germany*, and many other Potentates. Among the *Flemmings* was one *James de Arteville*, originally a Brewer, who had inſinuated himſelf into the Hearts of the common People, and was their Leader in all their Tumults: him King *Edward* bribed to his Party, who was very uſeful to him. Tho the King was buſy in obtaining Inſtruments abroad for the War, he was not negligent in making ſuch Laws at Home as might be agreeable to his People. Not long before this Time an Act paſſed in Parliament for allowing *Liberty to all Artificers to come and inhabit here*; and this Clauſe was enacted, *that none ſhould wear other than* Engliſh *Cloth, except the King, Queen, and their Children, and that no Man ſhould wear any Facing of Silks or Furrs, but ſuch as could ſpend an hundred Pounds in a Year.* This Act ſeems to have been deſigned as a Lure to the People for the Preſent, and an artful Prelude to future Impoſitions; for by the Encouragement of domeſtic Trade the People were the better enabled to bear the Taxes with which he loaded them in the twelfth and fourteenth Years of his Reign. He ſeized on all the Treaſure which was laid up in the Churches for carrying on the holy War, and applyed it

to

to his Uſe in the *French* War; and moreover, not contented with this and the Taxes with which he had burdened his People, he ſtripped ſeveral Orders of Prieſts of their Money and Goods. Amidſt theſe Arbitrary Proceedings (of which his pillaging Churches and other religious Houſes is leaſt exceptionable) he exerted no little Policy to draw in the Layety to give their Aſſiſtance. He heaped Honours, with no ſparing Hand, on all whom he thought equal to the Expedition on which he was going. He opened the Priſons and forgave paſſed Debts; and accompanyed with many great and gallant Captains, and powerful Allies, he began the War in the twelfth Year of his Reign; and never did any Leader behave more gallantly, or conduct a War with more Policy, than King *Edward* did this; and what added to the Glory of his Arms was the Strength of his Enemy: but never was a War more unjuſtly waged, or more diſadvantageous to the People. King *Philip* of *France* was not leſs valiant, and had more Juſtice, tho leſs Succeſs, attending his Cauſe, than the King of *England*.

Soon after the Beginning of this War a greater Victory was obtained by Sea than ever was before by the *Engliſh* Fleet. King *Edward* ſat out with two hundred Sail of Ships from the Haven of *Sluce*, and was

joined by a large Fleet conducted by Sir *Robert Morley*; in an Engagement with which the *French* loſt thirty thouſand Men, and had all their Ships ſunk and taken. The *Engliſh* afterwards beſieged *Tourney*, where they were encountered with a mighty Army.

From *Chyn*, where he lodged, near *Tourney*, the King of *England* ſent a Challenge to the King of *France* to meet him in ſingle Combat, or attended each by an hundred choice Men. King *Philip* urged to King *Edward* the Injuſtice of his Cauſe, and told him that the Combat would be on unequal Terms, unleſs he would conſent that the Conqueror ſhould poſſeſs both Kingdoms; if he would comply with ſuch Terms, he ſayed, he would meet him; but King *Edward* refuſed. The Siege of *Tourney* continued three Months; and great was the Devaſtation which it wrought on the Country about; but *Tourney* was not taken. All *Criſtendom* was anxious about the Event of this War, when *Jane de Valois*, Siſter to King *Philip*, and Mother to King *Edward*'s Queen, mediated a Truce for a Year. The King of *England*, after this War of three Years, returned Home with his Queen, who had brought forth, in the Time of the War, two Sons, *Lionel*, who was afterwards Duke of *Clarence*, and *John*, born in *Gaunt*, who was afterwards Duke of *Lancaſter*,

Thus

Thus, in the fifteenth Year of his Reign, King *Edward* conſented to let the Kingdoms reſt in Peace one Year, but more thro Neceſſity, as himſelf confeſſed in his Letter to the Biſhop of *London*, than thro any other Motive; for all his Treaſure was exhauſted, notwithſtanding the vaſt Impoſitions layed on his Subjects. About this Time *John Stratford*, Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, wrote a bold and prudent Letter to the King, adviſing him to conſult with grave and wiſe Counſellors before he launched into another War: he likewiſe warned him againſt impriſoning his Officers and Clergy illegally, as he did, leſt he ſhould loſe the Hearts of his People. This, from the Archbiſhop, very much alarmed the King, who wrote to the Biſhop of *London* complaining of the Archbiſhop; but, when the Archbiſhop begged that the Cauſe might come before the Parliament, the King declined the Propoſal. In a Parliament held at *London*, the ſame Year, the King met with ſome Difficulties. Petitions were preferred for the due Obſervation of various Charters, and likewiſe that the high Officers of the Kingdom might be elected by Parliament as formerly. The King ſtood up ſtrenuouſly for his own Prerogative in the Election of ſuch Officers; but he yielded at laſt that they ſhould take an Oath in Parliament to act juſtly, in their Offices, to all

Men; accordingly a Statute was made, and confirmed by the royal Signet; and many other Grants from the King to his Subjects were at the ſame Time confirmed in the ſame Manner: but all theſe Conceſſions were made by the King only to ſerve his preſent End, as he himſelf acknowledged; and as his revoking moſt of them, ſoon after, proved.

The Year was ſcarcely expired before the War broke out again. The *Emperor* departed from his Alliance with King *Edward*, and joined the *French* King; about which Time *John de Mountfort* came from *France*, and performed Homage to the King of *England* for a Dutchy, which was refuſed him by the *French* Parliament in favour of *Charles de Blois*, whoſe Title appeared juſt. Encouraged by King *Edward*, *Mountfort* returned back to *Bretaign*, raiſed a War, and was taken Priſoner, and carryed to the *Louvre* at *Paris*. The Counteſs of *Mountfort*, his Wife, proſecuted the Quarrel of her Husband; ſhe armed herſelf, and, at the Head of her Forces, ſurpriſed many ſtrong Places in *Bretaign*, but was compelled to Flight by the ſuperior Power of *Charles de Blois*. She came to *England*, and ſought Aſſiſtance of King *Edward*; which he granted. *Robert de Artois* Earl of *Richmond*, the Earls of *Salisbury*, *Pembroke*, *Suffolk*, and other Leaders,

Leaders were ſent over with this Lady, with a great Army. Many Places were beſieged, taken, and recovered, and the Face of Affliction was in the Countries about. *Robert de Artois*, tho in an unjuſtifiable Cauſe, acted like a brave and undaunted Soldier in every Scene of Action. He received his laſt Wound at the Siege of *Vannes*, thro which he dyed, after being brought alive into *England*. Six Years this gallant *Frenchman* ſerved King *Edward*, and indulged his own Revenge. Soon after theſe Supplies were ſent with the Counteſs of *Mountfort* King *Edward* marched with more to the Siege of *Vannes*; and *Charles de Blois* was aided with forty thouſand Auxiliaries. As theſe two mighty Armies were about to give Battel, Pope *Clement* the ſixth deputed two Cardinals to mediate a Truce for three Years, on theſe Conditions, that the Differences betwixt the Crowns of *England* and *France* ſhould be referred to the *Pope* and the Court of *Rome*, but not determined without the Conſent of the two Kings. The *Pope* prevailed, and the groaning Land was eaſed by a Ceſſation of Arms.

When King *Edward* returned to *England* he found King *David* reſtored to the Throne of *Scotland*, whom he chaſed into the Iſlands; after which he came back, and at *Windſor* erected a Room, in Imitation of King *Arthur*'s

thur's round Table, for the Entertainment of ſuch as were expert at Tournaments and like Exerciſes; and thither he invited ſuch Foreigners as were inclined to come. The King of *France* followed the ſame Practice, at the ſame Time, to draw what Strangers he could to his Party, who otherwiſe might have accepted the Invitation of King *Edward*. Thus were both Parties making Preparation for the Day of Blood.

About this Time the Order of the *Garter* was inſtituted, ſayed to be from the Accident of the King taking up the Garter of the Counteſs of *Salisbury* as he was dancing with her: ſince which Time eight Emperors, near thirty Kings, and a great Number of foreign Princes beſides, have received the Garter as an Enſign of Honour.

We can not ſay that King *Edward* omitted uſing any Means which might conduce to his great Point of carrying on the War with *France*: he ſtudyed to find out Diverſions, in the Time of the Truce, agreeable to his Nobility and other Perſons of Diſtinction, and was himſelf a Party in them; his Deportment in which made ſuch an Impreſſion in their Minds, that the Men afterwards chearfully ſhared his Perils with him, who was the Companion of their Hours of Pleaſure; and the Women, we may preſume,

ſume, were Advocates for a Prince of his Gallantry.

To inſinuate himſelf farther into the Affections of his People, he undertook a Regulation of eccleſiaſtical Affairs. As the Benefices of *England* were moſt filled with Foreigners recommended by the *Pope*, he wrote to *Rome*, at the Requeſt of his Subjects, and intreated the *Pope* to revoke that his Privilege aſſumed of filling Benefices here with Strangers ſo derogatory to the Honour of *England*. The Perſon whom he ſent to *Rome* was Sir *John Shorditch*, a wiſe and able Miniſter; whoſe Meſſage was ſo diſagreeable to that Court, that he was forced to return without an Anſwer; nevertheleſs the King ſent Prohibitions, thro his Realm, to the Admittance of Foreigners into Cures in his Dominions: and Death, or Impriſonment, was the Penalty to ſuch Perſons as either preſented, or admitted, them; and at the ſame Time, which was in the ſeventeenth Year of his Reign, was Archbiſhop *Stratford* again received into the royal Favour. Theſe Proceedings were political; for the King hereby rid himſelf of thoſe Clergy whoſe Treaſures he had before ranſacked, and who were conſequently his Enemies; and at the ſame Time he ſecured ſo many Friends as he put into the Benefices of thoſe whom he turned out: and this Regulation in the Church

Church could not but be grateful to the whole Nation, as it excluded Foreigners and provided for *Engliſhmen.*

In this Year was Prince *Edward* created Prince of *Wales*, who was afterwards called the *Black Prince* from wearing black Armour.

In the next Year the King began to reap the Fruits of his Civilities of the preceding Year: the Layety were taxed, nor were the Clergy exempted. His Oppoſition, the Year before, to the Authority of the *Pope* was a bold and profitable Step; which made the *Engliſh* Clergy not unwilling to contribute a Part to him who was the Occaſion of their poſſeſſing the whole.

Preparations are now making for Battel, as if the Sword had ſlept too long from the woeful Work of Deſtruction: Muſters are made, thro all the King's Dominions, of Archers, Horſemen, and all able Men of War; and he went himſelf to *Flanders* to get his Party there in Readyneſs; where he attempted to turn the Earl of *Flanders* out of his Country, and place his Son, the Prince of *Wales*, in his Room. His mighty Agent, *Artivile*, was employed to bring about this Revolution in *Flanders*, who went to *Gaunt*, guarded by five hundred *Welch*, where

where he met with a Reſiſtance, too powerful for him, from the Provoſt of Weavers, who headed a Party againſt him; and there he was ſlain by the Hand of a Cobler who opened his Brain by a Blow with an Ax. Thus fell *James de Artevile*, Captain of his thouſands in Broils and Tumults, by the Mob which he had often led to Mutiny: and if thus the mighty and ſucceſsful *Edward* had fell, in him had fallen only a more illuſtrious Invader and Oppreſſor than this little Inſtrument of Evil *James de Artevile*.

This Attempt of King *Edward* againſt the Earl of *Flanders* had as little Policy as Honeſty in it; for, tho he depended on his own ſuperior Power, one unlooked for Accident might fruſtrate his Hopes, and by his ill Succeſs hazard the Loſs of a uſeful Ally; and we ſee that he did fail, by the Death of his Inſtrument of Tyranny in thoſe Parts; and wonderful ſeems to me his being able to renew a League with the *Flemmings* afterwards, as he did: which indeed muſt be looked upon as a Stroke of no ſmall Policy. A Man muſt be prejudiced in Favour of his Country to an immenſe Degree that can look on this Attack of King *Edward* on the Dominions of the Earl of *Flanders* with Applauſe: a Prince that will act in that Manner is, in the Eye of Reaſon, guilty of a more abominable Immorality than a private

Man that invades the Property of his Neighbour, and then murders him: the evil Conſequences of the latter extend to but one Family, thoſe of the other to thouſands.

About this Time the War broke out again, before the Expiration of the Truce. The Earl of *Darby*, General of the Army, attacked and took ſeveral Towns in *France*. Accuſations then begun on both Sides: the King of *France* accuſed the King of *England* of a Breach of Truce; the King of *England* charged him with entertaining King *David* of *Scotland*, and with encouraging him to invade *England*.

We are now come to the twentyeth Year of the Reign of our mighty, active, and warlike, King *Edward*. In *July* 1346 he paſſed over to *Normandy*, with as powerful a Fleet as ever had croſſed the Seas: the Earl of *Huntington* was Admiral, and many and valiant were the Captains of his Land-Forces. In this Year *Godfrey de Harcourt*, who had been a Minion to the *French* King, betrayed his Truſt, and came over to King *Edward*; and in the ſame Year *John de Beaumont*, whom King *Edward* had made Earl of *Cambridge*, went over to King *Philip*; and both Princes were willing to receive the Renegades for the Intelligence which they could give of the Situation of the Affairs of the Enemy;

Enemy; but *Godfrey de Harcourt* * deceived King *Edward*, and returned to *France*; he was an unfaithful Servant to both, and dangerous to be truſted. The King of *France* had an Army compoſed of the Flower of his Land. Many Ships were taken on the Seas by the *Engliſh* Fleet; and many Towns were beſieged by King *Edward*, and ſurrendered to him. His paſſing the River *Soam* is an Inſtance of ſo much perſonal Bravery, that not to relate ſome Particulars thereof would be an Offence to Juſtice. As King *Philip* preſſed on King *Edward* with a ſuperior Army, King *Edward* ſtrived to gain the River *Soam* at *Blanquetaque*; but *Gundomar* was planted on the farther Side with a thouſand Horſe, and ſix thouſand Foot. The King of *France* did not doubt obtaining a Victory, as he marched on with a puiſſant Army, and had obſtructed the Paſſage over the River; but King *Edward*, ſeeing to what Extremities he was drove, plunged foremoſt into the Flood, crying out, *they who love me will follow me*. Gundomar, who was aſtoniſhed, diſheartened his Men by his own Fear, and King *Edward* gained the Shore, and ſoon after a Conqueſt.

In *Auguſt* 1346 was the memorable and dreadful Battel of *Creſſey*; in which the

* The Character which Hiſtorians give of this *Frenchman* is parallel to that of the late Lord *Bolingbroke* in ſome Circumſtances.

Army of *France* conſiſted of above ſixty thouſand Men, double the Number of the *Engliſh*. *Edward* Prince of *Wales*, who was then in the ſixteenth Year of his Age, commanded the Vauntguard of the *Engliſh*, and the Earl of *Alanſon*, Brother to King *Philip*, the *Vauntguard* of the *French*. The Diſadvantages were many to the *French* that Day; the Sun ſhined in their Faces; and not long before the Battel a Shower fell which ſpoiled the Bowſtrings of the Archers; notwithſtanding which King *Philip* was not diſheartened; he preſſed on till he confronted the *Engliſh*, where the Prince of *Wales*, emulating his Father, was hot in the Buſyneſs of Death: the Commanders about him, being anxious for his Safety, ſent to the King, begging he would bring ſome Aſſiſtance to the Prince: the King asked the Meſſenger whether his Son was ſlain or hurt; the Meſſenger anſwered no; to which the King replyed, *Tell them, from me, to trouble me no more while my Son is alive; for I will the Honour of this Day to be his.* King *Philip*'s Horſe was ſlain under him, and he in Danger of being trampled to Death, which confuſed the *French* ſo much, who were fearful for their Prince, that they were all ſoon in Diſorder. A Victory was gained by the *Engliſh*, the greateſt that ever King *Edward* gained over the *French*. The Number of thoſe who fell in Battel is ſayed to be thirty thouſand;

thouſand; among which was *Alanſon*, King *Philip*'s Brother. King *Philip* fled to *Bray* in the Night. This Victory made the Names of King *Edward*, and his young Son, terrible, not only to *France*, but to all *Chriſtendom*; which alone would place them among the firſt in Arms, if their Swords had been always before and after idle.

This Year was fruitful of Conqueſts to *England*; for the Queen, while her Husband and Son were reaping Honours abroad, was encreaſing the Glory of her Family at Home. *David* King of *Scotland*, perhaps ſet on by the *French* King, poured into *England* ſixty thouſand Men; where he met with an entire Defeat from the Queen. The Lords *Piercy* and *Nevill*, who were Wardens of *England* in the Abſence of the King, the Archbiſhop of *York*, the Biſhop of *Durham*, and other Perſons of Diſtinction, joined their Powers, and with the Queen obtained a Victory, and took King *David*, and many of his Nobles, Priſoners, ſix Weeks after the Battel of *Creſſey*.

King *Edward* proſecuted the War with *France* with great Vigour. The Earl of *Darby* ſacked ſeveral Towns; and the King himſelf lay before *Calais*, which, after a Siege that laſted almoſt a Year, was ſurrendered to him. The beſieged, unable longer

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to withſtand him, ſought for Peace; which was granted on this Condition: they were to ſend to King *Edward* ſix of their chief Burgeſſes bareheaded, barefooted, in their Shirts, Halters about their Necks, and the Keys of the Town and Caſtle in their Hands. After a Conſultation among the beſieged, ſix were ſent out in the Manner propoſed, who ſubmitted themſelves on their Knees to the Conqueror. The King commanded them to be executed immediately, againſt the Advice and Intreaty of his Council; nor could he be diſſuaded from his Reſolution of hanging them till his Queen, who was pregnant, begged their Lives on her Knees and in Tears. *Eachard* relates this Account of the Burgeſſes without diſputing the Truth of it, but gives no Credit to what the *Scotch* Hiſtorians write of King *Edward* and Lord *Seton*. If we examine ſtrictly into both Stories we ſhall find that he who could act the Part in one which King *Edward* did is capable of acting the Part which is told of him in the other; and, if we trace him thro the Actions of his Life, we ſhall diſcover that he inherited not only the Valour of his Grandfather King *Edward* the firſt, but too much of his Cruelty, notwithſtanding the little Victuals which he gave to ſuch aged Perſons and Infants as were turned out of *Calais*, and ſent to ſeek new Homes in the Country which lay waſted by his Arms. Our Hiſtorian

Eachard

Eachard ſhews neither much Judgment nor Candour in doubting the Veracity of Hiſtorians of other Nations in ſuch Paſſages as are agreeable to the Nature of Things. *Danyel*, one of the politeſt Writers of Hiſtory, relates the Affair betwixt King *Edward* and Lord *Seton* as a Debt due to the Memory of that Nobleman and his Lady.

I ſhall now return to King *Edward*, who, after his taking *Calais*, the third of *Auguſt* 1347, came Home full of Triumphs, and loaded with the Spoils of the Enemy. *England* was then the Scene of Joy, while *France* was one Face of Mourning and Deſolation. In the Beginning of the next Year the great Joy of *England* was converted to Lamentation by a dreadful Peſtilence, which raged to ſuch a Degree that, betwixt the firſt Day of *January* and the firſt of *July*, above fifty-ſeven thouſand Perſons dyed in *London*. One great Cauſe of this Peſtilence is ſayed to have been the Want of Culture, one of the woeful Effects of War!

In the twenty-third Year of the Reign of King *Edward* an Attempt was made for the Recovery of *Calais*, but in vain. *Monſieur de Charmy*, Governour of St. *Omers*, offered twenty thouſand Crowns to *Americo de Pavia* to be admitted into the Caſtle of *Calais*; *Americo* accepted the Offer, and appointed the

the Night. *Charmy* ſat out from St. *Omers* with his Forces, and ſent an hundred Men before with the Money to *Americo*, and to poſſeſs the Caſtle. *Americo* ſent Notice to King *Edward*, who arrived with nine hundred Men. *Charmy*'s Men were admitted, and, after the Money was payed, layed in Priſon. The Gates were opened, and King *Edward*, and his Son the Prince of *Wales*, marched out under the Colours of Lord *Walter Manny*, being unwilling to be known. *Monſieur de Charmy*, perceiving himſelf betrayed, put himſelf in the beſt Poſture of Defence that he could. In the Engagement *Monſieur de Riboumont* fought ſtourly Hand to Hand with the King, but was at laſt led Captive by him: The King, in Regard to his Valour, preſented him with a Chaplet of Pearl, and gave him his Liberty. Soon after the King of *England* got the Caſtle of *Guiſnes* by the ſame Stratagem which *De Charmy* uſed to get *Calais*; ſoon after which King *Philip* of *France* dyed, leaving a Kingdom full of Diſtreſs to his Son *John*; whoſe Throne was rendered as uneaſy to him by King *Edward* as his Father's was before him. King *Philip* was a brave and prudent Prince, and an Obſerver of Juſtice, and one who was inclined to let his Subjects reſt in Peace, if the turbulent Spirit of his Neighbour had not prevented them. Such a Father of his People lives beloved, and dies lamented, and

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is remembered with Reverence by all Men of all Countries, whoſe Partiality does not miſguide them, contrary to all Senſe and Honour, to grudge the Applauſe which is due to any Princes but their own.

The Year after the Death of King *Philip* King *Edward* turned his Arms againſt the *Spaniard*; and he acted a worthy and princely Part, in revenging the Injuries which his Subjects had ſuffered from the *Spaniards*, who had, the Year before, ſeized ſeveral *Engliſh* Ships in the River *Garonne*, loaded with Wine, and ſlew all the *Engliſh* in the Veſſels. Heavy was the Vengeance which King *Edward* took; for he in Perſon engaged the *Spaniſh* Fleet, as it ſailed from *Flanders*, and, after a bloody Fight, carryed off all their Subſtance, which was very great. This was a laudable Expedition, and the more gallant becauſe he went himſelf, as if he was loth to truſt the Execution of his Vengeance in the Hands of other Perſons.

From the Year 1350 to the Year 1355 diverſe hot Skirmiſhes paſſed betwixt the *French* and *Engliſh*, and a Peace was in vain ſued for by the Legates from the *Pope*. In the Year 1353 King *Edward* withdrew the Mart of Wool from the Towns in *Flanders*, and cauſed it to be kept at *Briſtol*, *Exeter*, and other Towns in *England*; and Ordi-

nances were enacted for the fixing the Staple of Wool in thoſe Places; but this Tranſlation of the Mart of Wool from *Flanders* to *England* was owed to King *Edward*'s reſenting a Diſappointment which he had in a Match that he propoſed for his Daughter with the Heir of *Flanders*.

In the ſame Year the Earl of *Darby* was created Duke of *Lancaſter*; and other Titles of Honour were beſtowed on other Captains as Rewards for paſſed Services, and as Encouragements for future.

In this Year to the Year 1356 Treaties were propoſed, and partly received, and partly rejected; Malecontents, among which was the King of *Navarre*, came over to King *Edward* from King *John* as ſeveral did from his Father; and in the Year 1355 every Sack of Wool was taxed five Shillings for ſix Years: in the next Year was the famous Battel of *Poictiers*; in which the Prince of *Wales*, who was then about five and twenty Years of Age, diſtinguiſhed himſelf in a wonderful Manner. With a ſmall Army he obtained a great Victory, and took the King of *France* Priſoner with his youngeſt Son *Philip*, who defended his Father with Courage and Reſolution when his elder Brothers forſook him. Many Noble-

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men and other Perſons of Note were made Captives with their Sovereign. The Prince of *Wales* returned to *England* with his Priſoners in great Triumph; where he was received with an univerſal Acclamation of the People. The King of *France* was confined in the *Savoy*; which was then the Palace of the *Engliſh* General the Duke of *Lancaſter*.

In the Year 1357 *David* King of *Scotland*, who had been, eleven Years, Priſoner in *England*, was ſat at Liberty for an hundred thouſand Marks, which were to be payed in ten Years.

France, in the Time of her King's Captivity, was greatly torn by Factions at Home; the Land was one Scene of Confuſion; the Peaſants murdered their Landlords, and ſeized their Stores; and the *Engliſh* Soldiers, which were left there, ranſacked the Country about for Proviſions; King *Edward* therefore had no Occaſion to lift up his Sword againſt a Nation miſerably divided againſt itſelf, and left the Prey of Strangers. Three Years the Dauphine *Charles*, reputed a wiſe Prince, laboured for the Redemption of his Father; but the Difficulties with which he ſtruggled at Home, and the Terms on which King *Edward* inſiſted being too heavy to be complyed with, he could not

procure his Ranſom. King *Edward* propoſed that the King of *France* ſhould pay Homage to him for his Kingdom, and hold it dependant on the Crown of *England*; which King *John* refuſed to do, chuſing an houourable Captivity rather than an inglorious Liberty, which muſt have ſubjected his Poſterity to *England*: King *Edward* therefore reſolved to take Poſſeſſion of *France* by Arms; and in the thirty-fourth Year of his Reign he went over with his Son the Prince of *Wales*, and the Duke of *Lancaſter*, who commanded two Battalions, and himſelf the third. They reduced many Towns to Obedience; and all fell before their Arms, till they came to *Paris*, which by the Conduct of the *Dauphine* wearyed out King *Edward*; who was brought to a Compliance at laſt. An immenſe Sum of Money was payed down to King *Edward*; and Hoſtages were given for the Payment of vaſt Sums more in the Space of three Years after. Many inland Countries, and ſeveral Territories on the Sea, were made over to the Crown of *England*. A Treaty of Peace and ſtrong Accord was ſigned by the two Kings, and ratified by their Heirs, the Prince of *Wales*, and the *Dauphine*, and ſworn to by the Nobility of both Kingdoms. King *John* was conducted to *Calais*, in the Year 1361, after an Impriſonment of almoſt five Years; both Kings parted ſeemingly with great Affection,

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King *John* to his People involved in Calamities, and King *Edward* to a triumphant Land.

As ſoon as King *Edward* returned Home, loaded with the Riches of *France*, he reſtored Part of what he had raviſhed from his Subjects to ſupport him in his Wars: a more glorious Part than could have been expected to be performed by ſo great a Robber! Notwithſtanding this Deed of Atonement, the Act, which was the Cauſe of it, was tyrannical.

At this Time was another great Peſtilence, which ſwept away vaſt Numbers, and among them many of the Nobility; but the greateſt, and moſt lamented, was *Henry* Duke of *Lancaſter*, who was a principal Pillar to the *Engliſh* Throne, and who had led the Armies of his Country, next under his King, thro the Wars with *France*, and to whom his Prince was indebted for many Victories. His Daughter, and Heir, was marryed to *John* of *Gaunt*, who ſucceeded him in his Dukedom.

In the next Year, which was the thirty-ſixth Year of his Reign, and fiftyeth of his Age, King *Edward* pardoned many Offences, releaſed Priſoners and revoked Exiles; he likewiſe cauſed Pleas, which were before in *French*,

French, to be made in *Engliſh*, *that the Subject*, ſays the Hiſtorian, *might underſtand the Law, by which he holds what he hath, and is to know what he doth.* This was doubtleſs a beneficial Act; and I can not avoid quoting what *Danyel* judiciouſly and elegantly ſays of it*. *A bleſſed Act!* and, *if he could thereby have rendered the ſame* (meaning the Law itſelf) *alſo perſpicuous, it had been a Work of eternal Honour; but ſuch is the Fate of Law, that, in what Language ſoever it ſpeaks, it never ſpeaks plain, but is wrapt up in ſuch Difficulties and Myſteries, (as all Profeſſions of Profit are) as it gives more Affliction to the People than it doth Remedy.*

In the next Seſſion of Parliament at *Weſtminſter* an Act was made to direct every Degree of Perſons, from the Prince to the Peaſant, what Habits they ſhould wear: foreign Superfluities were prohibited to all but eminent Perſons †, that our own Commodities might be chiefly uſed; but one Part of this Act ſeems to me not to carry ſo much Wiſdom in it as the reſt; which is the Clauſe that

* An Act of the ſame Nature has been made by the preſent Parliament; which is objected to by none but Practitioners in the Law, and thoſe the worſt Part thereof.

† If a Bill of this Kind was now brought into the Houſe, I ſuppoſe the Lobby, and the Court of Requeſts, would be thronged with Gameſters, and Fortunehunters, *Engliſh* as well as *Iriſh*.

that forbids Labourers to eat more than one Meal in a Day.

The Places of Truſt in the King's Houſehold, and civil Government, were all filled with Clergymen, from the Chancellor of *England* to the Maſters in Chancery, &c. which Offices were well diſcharged; and the King's Prudence was ſeen by putting Perſons in them whoſe holy Function, and religious Methods of living, and whoſe Celebacy, rendered them leſs anxious to encreaſe their own Stores than Laymen were at that Time.

In the Year 1365 King *John* payed a Viſit to King *Edward*, and dyed in the *Savoy*, formerly the Seat of his Confinement, which was ſo eaſy to him, that he choſe to lodge in the ſame Place, when he made his voluntary Viſit. His Corps was attended by King *Eaward* to *Dover* with much Sorrow and Solemnity, and from thence carried to *France*. He was ſucceeded by his Son the *Dauphine*, *Charles*, ſirnamed *the wiſe*.

The two Kingdoms reſted in Peace the Space of five Years; but, tho King *Edward* ſurvived two Kings of *France* whom his Arms had ſubdued, *Charles* aroſe to ſtrip him of moſt of the Glories which forty Years had won.

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We are now entering into the laſt ten Years of the Reign of King *Edward* the third, in which the Fruits of his paſſed Labours were plucked from him with greater Expedition than he had gathered them.

The Prince of *Wales*, who reſided in *Aquitaine*, which Dutchy his Father had given him, had kept up a ſplendid Court, and had been at ſuch a vaſt Expence, that he was willing to embrace any Opportunity to repair his Fortune, otherwiſe he would not have headed an Army, and engaged his Brother the Duke of *Lancaſter* in the ſame Cauſe, to reinſtate *Peter* of *Caſtile* in his Throne; which Prince, by the Inſtigation of a Concubine, murdered his Wife, and tyranniſed in a moſt intolerable Manner over his Subjects, who, after many Sufferings, drove him from his Realm, and choſe his Brother *Henry*, who was a Baſtard, and a Man of many Virtues. *Peter* came a Suppliant to the Prince of *Wales*, and promiſed great Rewards if he would aſſiſt him to regain his Kingdom. Prince *Edward*, with the Conſent of his Father, marched into *Spain* with thirty thouſand Men, placed *Peter* on his Throne, and returned, baffled by him, without any Gratification, and unable to pay his Army; and he there contracted an Indiſpoſition of Body from which he never recovered. The Conſequences

quences of this Expedition were ſuch as every honeſt Mind muſt be pleaſed with. The Aſſiſtants in ſo baſe a Cauſe were baulked in their mercenary Views, and King *Henry*, after the Prince of *Wales* had withdrawn his Forces, was brought back with the univerſal Conſent of the People; and *Peter* was killed.

From this Time the Glory of King *Edward* faded apace. Many Lords in *France* revolted from him; and, notwithſtanding he ſent his Forces thither, nothing was effected to his Advantage: Diſagreements among his own Captains co-operated with the wiſe Proceedings of King *Charles* againſt him. About this Time was the third great Peſtilence in King *Edward*'s Reign; in which dyed his Queen *Philippa*, and the Duke of *Lancaſter*'s Wife, Daughter to the former Duke of *Lancaſter*.

In the Year 1371 King *Edward* reſumed his Title to the Crown of *France*, and borrowed of the Clergy fifty thouſand Pounds, and as much of the Layety, the latter of which was raiſed by taxing every Pariſh in *England* five Pounds; which Supply was to have been repayed in the ſame Year. This Aſſiſtance being granted, the great Charter, and the Charter of Foreſts, were renewed.

John Duke of *Lancaſter*, and *Edmond* Earl of *Cambridge*, were ſent into *Aquitaine*, with Forces, to help their Brother the Prince of *Wales*, who was rendered, by Illneſs, incapable of proſecuting the War; therefore he returned into *England* with his Wife, and Son *Richard*, who was born at *Bourdeaux*. The Duke of *Lancaſter* and Earl of *Cambridge*, about this Time, marryed the two Daughters of *Peter* late tyrant King of *Caſtile*: the Duke of *Lancaſter*, who wedded the elder, had the Title of King of *Caſtile* without the Dominions; but his Daughter, whom he had by that Princeſs, was afterwards Queen of *Caſtile* and *Leon*; and her Poſterity became Kings of *Spain*. The two Brothers meaſured back their Way to *England* with their Wives, unable to prevail againſt the Arms and Wiſdom of *Charles* of *France*. *Lionel* Duke of *Clarence*, not long before theſe Marriages of his Brothers, matched with a Daughter of the Duke of *Milan*; the Luxury of which Court on that Occaſion was ſoon after his Death.

In the Year after the fruitleſs Expedition of his Sons King *Edward* ſent the Earl of *Pembroke* over to *France* with forty Ships well man'd, and victual'd; who was met by *Henry* King of *Caſtile*, who was going to the Aſſiſtance of the King of *France* at the Siege

Siege of *Rochell*, a City then poſſeſſed by the *Engliſh*. The two Fleets engaged; and the Earl of *Pembroke* was taken Priſoner, and his Fleet entirely deſtroyed. This *Henry* of *Caſtile* was made the Foe of *England* by being oppoſed by King *Edward* and his Sons in Behalf of the Tyrant *Peter*. King *Edward*, tho his Youth had left him, ſtill preſerved his Courage, and, provoked by his ill Fortune, ſat out in his old Age, in the forty-ſixth Year of his Reign, with an Army, hoping thereby to repair his Loſſes; but the Elements were againſt him, and drove him back. *Fabian*, whoſe Chronicles are as regular as thoſe of any Age or Country, tells us that King *Edward* asked the fifty thouſand Pounds, ſpoken of before, of the Clergy, and as much of the Layety, in the Beginning of this Year. He adds likewiſe that the Clergy did not advance the Money asked of them; which was the Occaſion of many of them being removed from their high Places.

From this to the fiftyeth Year of King *Edward*'s Reign the Time was employed in raiſing Soldiers, and making Truces with the *French* King; *Charles*, who always prevailed over King *Edward*.

In the fiftyeth Year of the Reign of this Monarch, declining in Glory as he encreaſed

in Years, the People, no longer able to bear the Burdens with which he loaded them, *in Stead of Contributions*, ſays *Danyel*, *exhibited Complaints*: they accuſed the Officers of the King of fraudulent Practices, and petitioned him to remove his Miſtreſs *Alice Pierce*, the Duke of *Lancaſter*, and other particular Perſons, from Court; which Requeſt the King complyed with, but, as Hiſtorians tell us, and as the Conſequence proves, thro Fear that they would not give him Supplies: upon the Removal of theſe Perſons from Court Supplies were granted; but, as ſoon as they were granted, the Duke, *Alice Pierce*, and their Party, were recalled. *Alice Pierce* made the King commit Sir *Peter De la Mare*, Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, and a Man of fair Character, to Priſon; the Provocation to which was his urging her * Removal from Court. About this Time dyed *Edward* the *black Prince*, much lamented; whoſe Son, *Richard* of *Bourdeaux*, was created Prince of *Wales*, and had the Succeſſion to the Crown ſettled on him by the King and Parliament. King *Edward*'s Reaſon for having this Settlement made by Act of Parliament was becauſe of the frequent Di-

* The Removal of *Alice Pierce*, and the Duke of *Lancaſter*, from Court has been mentioned, by ſome Writers, as an Inſtance of King *Edward* the *third*'s ſtrict Regard to the Will of his Subjects: but what was his real Motive for removing them plainly appears here.

Diſtractions which were in former Reigns about an Heir.

The Duke of *Lancaſter*, being at the Head of Affairs, behaved very imperiouſly. Subſidies were again demanded from an Apprehenſion of this Realm, which was lately the Terror of all *Chriſtendom*, being in Danger of an Invaſion. Factions aroſe in Parliament, which are hurtful in their Effects whenever they happen, the unjuſt Promoters of which can never be too ſeverely puniſhed. Theſe concurring Circumſtances contributed much to the Troubles of the aged King.

The Duke of *Lancaſter* procured many Enemies by being a Patron to *John Wicliff*. The Reaſon of his eſpouſing *Wicliff*'s Cauſe remains uncertain: whether he protected him becauſe he approved of his Doctrines for the Truth contained in them, or becauſe they were againſt the exorbitant Power of the *Pope* and the Church, and becauſe they thereby advanced the temporal Power of Princes, we can not tell; but he might, very poſſibly, be glad of an Opportunity to ſuppreſs the Tyranny of eccleſiaſtical Power, and at the ſame Time think *Wicliff*'s Principles agreeable to Reaſon. The Doctrines which *Wicliff* advanced in his Diſcourſes at *Oxford* were againſt Tranſubſtantiation, the *Pope*'s Supremacy, and the Infallibility of the Church;

Church: he inveighed likewiſe againſt the Abuſes which had crept in among Churchmen, and ſeveral religious Orders. He was a Man of profound Learning, and Integrity of Manners; which Virtues acquired many Friends, notwithſtanding the Number of his Enemies.

While this Controverſy was on Foot a tax of fourteen Pence a Head was layed on every Perſon upwards of fourteen Years of Age, in the Kingdom, they who lived by Alms only excepted; and every beneficed Clergyman payed twelve Pence: this was a Precedent of Oppreſſion attended with dreadful Conſequences, and in the next Reign. I muſt here make this Remark, which I have not met with in any Writer, that the Commons in Parliament ſeemed not only weary of granting Supplies, but fearful at laſt of truſting, what they did grant, to the Management of the King; for they inſiſted, as we are told, on this Subſidy being put into the Hands of certain Noblemen, who ſhould ſee it applyed according to the Occaſions of the Kingdom: but King *Edward* lived not long after to trouble them: he dyed at his Mannor of *Sheen* in *Surrey* the twenty-firſt Day of June 1377, in the ſixty-fourth Year of his Age, having reigned fifty Years and above four Months. *Fabian* ſays he began his Reign in January 1326, and reigned fifty-one Years,

Years, and above five Months. He had five Sons by his Wife, *Edward* the *black Prince*, who was Prince of *Wales*, *Lionel* Duke of *Clarence*, *John* of *Gaunt* who was Duke of *Lancaſter*, *Edmond* Earl of *Cambridge*, and *Thomas* of *Woodſtock*, Duke of *Gloceſter*: four of five Daughters lived to be marryed.

King *Edward* the *third* erected ſeveral *Abbeys*; but whether they ought to be called, as ſome Hiſtorians term them, Works of Piety, I will not preſume to determine. *King's-Hall* in *Cambridge* for poor Scholars, an Hoſpital for the poor at *Calais*, and the Proviſion for twenty-four poor Knights at *Windſor*, were certainly Acts of Charity: and *Queen's-College* at *Oxford* remains a Monument to the Name of his Wife, who founded it.

Moſt of our Hiſtorians, in the Concluſion of this Reign, are laviſh in the Praiſe of this Prince; they even wanton in their Eulogiums of him; but I muſt here obſerve that ſome of them borrow their rhetorical Embelliſhments from preceding Authors as well as their Facts, and thereby owe their Characters as Writers to the Merits of other Men, as they are indebted to old Records for Facts to make them Hiſtorians. *Eachard*, in his Hiſtory of *England*, not only keeps an

an Eye on the Sentiments of *Danyel*, thro ſuch Reigns as *Danyel* wrote, but tranſcribes whole Paragraphs without any particular Acknowledgment: his Character of this Prince is a Tranſcript from *Danyel*: and I may venture to ſay that moſt of *Eachard*'s Sentiments, which are not borrowed, are very poor, partial, and ſuperſtitious. He, copying after * *Danyel*, cloaths King *Edward* with almoſt every human Virtue, *Engliſh* Hiſtorians, moſt of them I mean, ſeem to conſider themſelves only as *Engliſhmen*, without acknowledging the Virtues of foreign Growth; a Cenſure which is juſtly due to many other Hiſtorians who are not *Engliſh*: but an Hiſtorian ſhould look on himſelf as a Denizen of the World, and pay no Regard to any Country at the Expence of Truth: whoever propoſes the Conduct of King *Edward* the *third* as a beneficial Example to other Princes is either very unjuſt, or very ignorant of the general Diſtinctions of Right and Wrong, and likewiſe of the particular Intereſt of this Nation.

The Conſequences of the Actions of a Prince whoſe Delight is War, without any other

* *Danyel*, whoſe Hiſtory comes no lower than the End of *Edward* the *third*'s Reign, diſcovers the Man of Learning, good Senſe, and delicate Taſte, is to be read as a fine Writer. *Rapin* diſcovers the Man of Senſe and Integrity, with a Heart and Judgement to ſeparate Truth from Falſehood, and is to be read as a faithful Hiſtorian. *Salmon*, who ſets up as a Cenſurer of *Rapin*, is a Writer without Genius or Learning, who trafficks with the Characters of *Princes* with the Heart and Underſtanding of a *Taylor*, and is to be read to no End.

other Motive but Ambition and Revenge, are ſuch as a virtuous Perſon can not conceive without Horror; he ſhudders when he reflects on the Miſeries of thoſe who were made deſolute by his Sword, and bewails their Afflictions whole Centuries after they have ſuffered them.

Of all the Conqueſts which King *Edward* the *third* made in *France* in the firſt forty Years of his Reign, *Calais* remained the only Fruit of his Victories when he dyed: Examples of his Fore-fathers might have taught him that foreign Acquiſitions, and eſpecially in *France*, were always detrimental to *England*: but War was his darling Miſtreſs; he courted her, and cared not at whoſe Ruin he enjoyed her; all the Grants which he made, renewed, or annulled, were to ſerve his own Ends: he never ſcrupled to baffle his Subjects into a Complyance with his Deſires, and would ſometimes immediately after revoke his Grants. The chief Part of his Character is ſum'd up in this: he was a graceful Perſon, a Man of Art and Addreſs, a brave and gallant Soldier, and a victorious Leader.

The State of the City of London, *in the Reign of King* Edward *the third, being a Supplement to the Life of that Prince.*

A SHORT Account of the State of the City of *London*, under King *Edward* the *third*, will give the Inhabitants thereof a juſt Senſe of the Bleſſings which they now enjoy, by ſhewing how ſubject they were to the Tyranny of former Reigns, and how unmoleſted they now enjoy all their Privileges.

In the Times of which I am now writing the Mayors were elected by the Court of Mayor and Aldermen. King *Edward* the *third*, in the firſt Year of his Reign, confirmed the Liberties which were granted to the City by his Predeceſſors, and likewiſe ordained that the Mayor ſhould ſit in all Seats of Judgment, in the City, as chief Juſtice, and that every Alderman, who had been Mayor, ſhould be a Juſtice of Peace in all *London* and *Middleſex*, and that every Alder-

Alderman, who had not been Mayor, ſhould execute the Office of Juſtice, if he would, in his own Ward; and, in the twelfth Year of his Reign, he allowed the Mayor the Liberty of having a Mace carryed before him.

Theſe Signs of royal Favour were ſhewed in order to obtain his Ends on the City in raiſing Supplies, as will appear. In the fourteenth Year of his Reign, the King asked twenty thouſand Marks of the City of *London*, under the Pretence of borrowing them. Every Ward was fined according to the Riches therein; and the principal Perſons of every Ward advanced, ſome full Half, and many almoſt Half, what the whole Ward was fined; and the Reſt of the Fine was raiſed by the Contribution of the inferior Inhabitants. *Fabian* relates the Sums extorted from every Ward, and the Names of the Perſons on whom the heavieſt Burdens were layed.

Notwithſtanding the pretended Privileges which were granted, the King behaved towards the City of *London*, and other Parts of his Realm, as arbitrary as if he had nothing to guide him but his own Authority. If a Magiſtrate refuſed Obedience to his tyrannical Impoſitions, he turned him out of Office by no Law but his own Will. In the

the fortyeth Year of his Reign, we are told by *Fabian*, that, at the King's Command, *Adam Bury*, then Mayor of *London*, was diſcharged, the twenty-eighth Day of January, and *John Lovekyn* Grocer elected: and the King, in the fiftyeth Year of his Reign, removed *Adam Staple* from his Mayoralty becauſe he was not forward in anſwering his unreaſonable Demands of Money*: theſe were Acts of Tyranny which have not been ſince exceeded by any, excepting King *James* the *ſecond*.

Thus Laws were made in thoſe ſlaviſh Times to delude the People into the Hopes of being ruled by them; but the Subject groaned under the Weight of Tyranny: *the Love of the poore People*, ſays *FABIAN*, *tourned into Hatred, and Prayer into Curſynge*.

* King *Edward* the *third* has been pointed out by ſome late Writers as a Prince who payed an inviolable Regard to the Liberties and Properties of his Subjects.

The END.